

**WILDLIFE HABITAT EVALUATION
RANGELAND HABITAT INVENTORY WORKSHEET**

Client: _____	FSN # _____
Date: _____	Tract: _____
Observer: _____	Field: _____
	Acres: _____

RANGELAND HABITAT INDEX

	POINTS	EXIST	ALT 1	ALT 2
Range Condition				
Excellent range condition	4	_____	_____	_____
Good range condition	12	_____	_____	_____
Fair range condition	12	_____	_____	_____
Poor range condition	1	_____	_____	_____
Range Trend				
Trend upward	12	_____	_____	_____
Trend stable	7	_____	_____	_____
Trend unknown	4	_____	_____	_____
Trend downward	1	_____	_____	_____
Grazing Management Proper forage harvest				
management practice applied	12	_____	_____	_____
Forage harvest management practice not applied	2	_____	_____	_____
Distance to Water				
<1/4 . 1/2 Mile	12	_____	_____	_____
1/2-1Mile	7	_____	_____	_____
> 1Mile	2	_____	_____	_____
(A) Total Rangeland Habitat Points (max. 48)		_____	_____	_____
(B) Habitat Index Points (Total pts./48)		_____	_____	_____

This index is used to evaluate rangeland. It can be modified to evaluate native pastureland which is managed without intensive practices such as mowing or fertilizing. Food and cover requirements are provided by native shrub, forb, and grass plants.

Range condition is an indicator of the quality and quantity of plant species for that range site. Generally, the better the range condition the greater the kinds and amounts of decrease and increase plants available for wildlife. Range condition is not an indicator of the quality of habitat for a particular species. Various range sites have value for particular species depending upon the kinds and amounts of plant species and the specific habitat requirement of the animal. Excellent condition rangeland may not be the best habitat for a particular species.

Range trend indicates if the range is improving or degrading and is an indicator of the health of the range ecosystem. Management is usually directed to obtaining an upward trend which is indicated by increase in species numbers and diversity.

Grazing management affects the kinds and amounts of plants which occur on rangeland. Improper grazing by domestic livestock can reduce the food and cover plants used by wildlife.